

Listing of the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A clustered Instruction Level Parallelism processor, comprising: a plurality of clusters each comprising at least one register file and at least one functional unit;

a bus means for connecting said clusters, said bus means comprising a plurality of bus segments, and

switching means, arranged between adjacent bus segments, for connecting or disconnecting adjacent bus segments.

2. (Original) Processor according to claim 1, wherein each cluster is coupled to at least one bus segment.

3. (Previously Presented) Processor according to claim 1, wherein two or more clusters are coupled to the same bus segment.

4. (Previously Presented) Processor according to claim 1, wherein said bus means is a multi-bus comprising at least two busses.

5. (Currently Amended) Method for accessing a bus in a clustered Instruction Level Parallelism processor, wherein said bus comprises at least one switching means along said bus, comprising the steps of:

performing a sending operation based on a source register and a transfer word, or
performing a receiving operation based on a designation source register and a transfer word; and

opening/closing said switching means according to said transfer word;
wherein said transfer word represents the sending direction for sending operation and the receiving direction for the receiving operation; and
wherein said sending direction or said receiving direction is left, right or all.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) Method according to claim [6] 5, wherein the default state of said switching means is closed.

8. (Original) Method according to claim 7, wherein the one of said switching means, which is closest to a cluster performing said sending operation or said receiving operation in the direction opposite of said sending or said receiving direction, is opened.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) Method according to claim [9] 5, wherein no switching means is opened, if said sending direction or receiving direction is all.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 5, wherein said transfer word represents a switch configuration word, wherein said switching means are opened or closed according to said configuration word.